

**AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, AUSTRALIA, MARCH QUARTER 1984  
(PRELIMINARY)  
(Incorporating Revisions to 1981-83)**

**PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics—contact Patrick Stakelum on Canberra (062) 52 6572 or any of our State offices.*

*other inquiries, including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.*

**MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.*

**MAIN FEATURES**

**NOTE.** *Estimates for periods prior to March 1984 have been revised (see paragraphs 1-3 below).*

Preliminary estimates of average weekly earnings for March quarter 1984 and the respective quarterly and annual changes are shown below:

	<i>Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (\$)</i>	<i>Change from previous quarter (%)</i>	<i>Change from previous year (%)</i>
Males	376.70	+1.9	+7.3
Females	304.90	+2.4	+8.4
Persons	353.60	+2.0	+7.4

  

	<i>All employees total earnings (\$)</i>	<i>Change from previous quarter (%)</i>	<i>Change from previous year (%)</i>
Males	369.90	+2.0	+8.2
Females	247.30	+4.0	+9.6
Persons	321.10	+2.9	+8.4

**EXPLANATORY NOTES****Introduction**

This publication contains preliminary estimates of average weekly earnings for the March quarter 1984. The estimates were obtained from a new sample selected from the recently upgraded ABS register of businesses and are not comparable with estimates of average weekly earnings previously published.

2. Background information for the introduction of the new sample is provided in *Information Paper: New Statistical Series: Employment, Average Weekly Earnings, Job Vacancies and Overtime* (6256.0) published on 21 June 1984, copies of which are available on request.

3. The new and old samples were run in parallel for both September quarter 1983 and December quarter 1983 and estimates of average weekly earnings for the previous quarters have been revised based on the relationship between the estimates produced from the new and old sample surveys for the December quarter 1983. Estimates for previous quarters have been revised by applying to the new estimates for the December quarter 1983 previously published quarterly movements.

**Scope of the survey**

4. All wage and salary earners who received pay for the reference period are represented in the survey, except:

- (a) members of the Australian permanent defence forces;
- (b) employees of enterprises primarily engaged in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting;
- (c) employees in private households employing staff;
- (d) employees of overseas embassies, consulates, etc.;
- (e) employees based outside Australia;
- (f) employees on workers' compensation who are not paid through the payroll;
- (g) directors who are not paid a salary;
- (h) proprietors/partners of unincorporated businesses;
- (i) self employed persons such as subcontractors, owner/drivers, consultants and persons paid solely by commission without a retainer.

**Survey design**

5. A sample of approximately 4,000 employers is selected from the ABS register of businesses to ensure adequate State and industry representation. The sample is updated each quarter to take account of new businesses, those which have ceased operation and structural changes such as takeovers and mergers. The statistical unit for the survey comprises all activities of an enterprise in a particular State or Territory. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the enterprise in the State or Territory. In a small number of cases where an enterprise has significant employment in more than one industry, a separate statistical unit is created for each industry. The statistical units are stratified by State, government/private, industry and size of employment and a simple random sample selected from each stratum.

**Definitions**

6. *Reference period* for the survey refers to the last pay period ending on or before 17 February 1984.



7. *Employees* refers to all wage and salary earners (as defined in paragraph 4) who receive pay for any part of the reference period.

8. *Full-time employees* are permanent, temporary and casual employees who normally work the agreed or award hours for a full-time employee in their occupation and received pay for any part of the reference period; if agreed or award hours do not apply, employees are regarded as full-time if they ordinarily work 35 hours or more per week.

9. *Adults* are those employees 21 years of age or over and those employees who, although under 21 years of age, are paid at the full adult rate for their occupation.

10. *Weekly total earnings* refers to one week's earnings of employees for the reference period, before taxation and any other deductions (e.g. superannuation, board and lodging) have been made. Earnings comprise ordinary time earnings, over-award payments, overtime earnings; penalty payments, shift and other allowances; commissions and retainers; bonuses and similar payments related to the reference period; payments under incentive or piecework; payments under profit sharing schemes normally paid each pay period and payments for leave taken during the reference period. Excluded are retrospective pay, pay in advance, leave loadings, severance pay, termination and redundancy payments and other payments not related to the reference period.

11. *Weekly ordinary time earnings* refers to that part of weekly total earnings attributable to award, standard or agreed hours of work.

12. *Average weekly earnings* are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of employment. The averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes to the overall composition of the labour force such as variations in employment levels, occupation distribution and proportions of part-time, casual and junior employees. Statistics of average weekly earnings represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'.

#### Comparability of results

13. For users who need a measure of the movement in earnings for a period which overlaps the September quarter 1981, Table 3 has been included which presents quarterly movements for the old (Payroll tax based) and current (Employer survey based) series linked to a common index base.

#### Reliability of estimates

14. As the estimates in this publication are based on information relating to a sample of employers rather than a complete enumeration, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from all employers. This difference, called *sampling error*, should not be confused with inaccuracy that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents or in processing by the ABS. Such inaccuracy is referred to as *non-sampling error* and may occur in any enumeration whether it be a full count or sample. Efforts have been made to reduce non-sampling error by careful design of questionnaires, detailed checking of returns and quality control of processing.

15. The sampling error associated with any estimate can be estimated from the sample results. One measure of sampling error is given by the *standard error* which indicates the degree to which an estimate may vary from the value that would have been obtained from a full enumeration (the 'true' figure). There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate differs from the true value by less than one standard error, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

16. An example of the use of a standard error for the March quarter 1984 estimate is as follows. Table 1 shows the estimated standard error for the March quarter 1984 estimate of average weekly total earnings for all employees in Australia as being \$2.60. Therefore there are about two chances in three that a full enumeration would give a figure in the range \$318.50 to \$323.70 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would be in the range \$315.90 to \$326.30.

17. An example of the use of a standard error for a quarterly change estimate is as follows. Table 1 shows the estimated standard error for the quarterly change estimate of average weekly total earnings for all employees in Australia as being \$1.90. The quarterly change estimate is \$9.10 (\$321.10 minus \$312.00). Therefore there are about two chances in three that a full enumeration would give a quarterly change figure in the range \$7.20 to \$11.00 and nineteen chances in twenty that it would be in the range \$5.30 to \$12.90.

#### Related publications

18. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

*Information Paper: New Statistical Series: Employment, Average Weekly Earnings, Job Vacancies and Overtime* (6256.0)

*Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia, September Quarter 1983* (6248.0) (\$1.00, \$1.70 incl. postage)—to be issued shortly

*Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia* (6312.0)—issued monthly

19. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- n.a. not available
- . . not applicable
- p preliminary
- r revised since previous issue

NOTE: The estimates of average weekly earnings are rounded to the nearest 10 cents.

A. R. BAGNALL  
Acting Australian Statistician



TABLE 1. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES, AUSTRALIA

Quarter	Survey reference date	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
		Full-time adults		All males	Full-time adults		All females	Full-time adults		All employees
		Weekly ordinary time earnings	Weekly total earnings		Weekly ordinary time earnings	Weekly total earnings		Weekly ordinary time earnings	Weekly total earnings	
		—dollars—								
1981—										
September r	14 August	283.90	307.20	283.90	231.00	237.00	190.80	267.40	285.30	247.80
December r	23 October	296.60	323.30	296.60	239.50	246.30	193.40	279.00	299.60	256.20
1982—										
March r	19 February	310.50	336.90	313.10	246.40	253.50	203.00	290.00	310.70	269.80
June r	21 May	320.70	347.60	323.00	257.30	263.90	211.20	300.60	321.10	278.90
September r	20 August	334.90	358.60	330.60	266.20	272.00	217.40	312.90	331.00	285.70
December r	19 November	347.10	370.90	338.30	277.00	282.60	219.20	325.30	343.40	291.10
1983—										
March r	18 February	351.20	370.90	341.80	281.30	286.60	225.70	329.20	344.30	296.10
June r	20 May	354.20	375.60	344.10	282.20	288.60	227.20	331.30	348.00	297.70
September r	19 August	357.80	380.50	350.50	284.20	290.20	228.80	334.10	351.40	301.50
December r	18 November	369.70	394.80	362.80	297.80	304.30	237.70	346.60	365.80	312.00
1984—										
March p	17 February	376.70	401.20	369.90	304.90	311.70	247.30	353.60	372.40	321.10
—per cent—										
Quarterly change—										
1981—										
December		+4.5	+5.2	+4.5	+3.7	+3.9	+1.4	+4.3	+5.0	+3.4
1982—										
March		+4.7	+4.2	+5.6	+2.9	+2.9	+5.0	+3.9	+3.7	+5.3
June		+3.3	+3.2	+3.2	+4.4	+4.1	+4.0	+3.7	+3.3	+3.4
September		+4.4	+3.2	+2.4	+3.5	+3.1	+2.9	+4.1	+3.1	+2.4
December		+3.6	+3.4	+2.3	+4.1	+3.9	+0.8	+4.0	+3.7	+1.9
1983—										
March		+1.2	+0.0	+1.0	+1.6	+1.4	+3.0	+1.2	+0.3	+1.7
June		+0.9	+1.3	+0.7	+0.3	+0.7	+0.7	+0.6	+1.1	+0.5
September		+1.0	+1.3	+1.9	+0.7	+0.6	+0.7	+0.8	+1.0	+1.3
December		+3.3	+3.8	+3.5	+4.8	+4.9	+3.9	+3.7	+4.1	+3.5
1984—										
March p		+1.9	+1.6	+2.0	+2.4	+2.4	+4.0	+2.0	+1.8	+2.9
—dollars—										
Standard errors(a)—										
1984—										
March										
level p		2.60	2.90	3.30	2.30	2.30	2.50	2.10	2.30	2.60
change p		1.90	2.30	2.50	1.90	2.00	1.90	1.60	1.80	1.90

(a) See paragraphs 14-17 of the Explanatory notes.



TABLE 2. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES, STATES AND TERRITORIES (REVISED)

Quarter	Survey reference date	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
		Full-time adults		All males	Full-time adults		All females	Full-time adults		All employees
		Weekly ordinary time earnings	Weekly total earnings		Weekly ordinary time earnings	Weekly total earnings		Weekly ordinary time earnings	Weekly total earnings	
—dollars—										
NEW SOUTH WALES										
1981—										
December	23 October	302.80	334.90	308.90	239.00	246.80	202.30	282.20	306.80	268.10
1982—										
March	19 February	316.00	346.40	323.60	244.60	253.30	210.10	293.00	316.60	280.40
June	21 May	327.00	359.40	334.80	253.90	261.90	216.90	303.00	327.50	288.90
September	20 August	343.20	369.20	339.10	262.90	270.20	221.80	317.00	336.90	293.80
December	19 November	351.60	377.90	345.70	269.20	275.80	223.00	325.10	345.10	297.90
1983—										
March	18 February	356.50	376.00	348.40	277.60	283.60	232.30	330.80	345.80	303.20
June	20 May	359.70	383.50	352.60	276.60	283.60	232.30	332.10	350.30	305.20
September	19 August	363.80	388.20	361.60	277.80	285.00	233.10	334.60	353.30	309.50
December	18 November	376.70	402.20	372.40	294.90	301.80	242.60	348.70	367.90	318.50
VICTORIA										
1981—										
December	23 October	286.70	312.10	286.40	232.20	239.70	191.70	269.20	288.90	248.50
1982—										
March	19 February	302.80	327.00	304.10	243.10	250.00	204.00	282.80	301.30	263.30
June	21 May	311.10	332.70	310.40	254.40	260.10	212.80	292.50	309.10	271.40
September	20 August	328.10	348.90	325.00	265.10	269.70	221.90	307.20	322.70	283.40
December	19 November	344.00	365.30	333.10	279.20	283.20	222.10	323.50	339.40	288.90
1983—										
March	18 February	346.40	364.50	335.20	282.70	287.40	227.80	325.70	339.50	292.30
June	20 May	349.50	369.10	339.40	285.60	291.50	232.40	328.50	343.80	296.40
September	19 August	354.00	374.70	345.30	289.50	295.10	233.70	333.10	349.00	300.50
December	18 November	366.80	391.20	359.40	301.40	307.70	243.90	345.40	364.00	312.60
QUEENSLAND										
1981—										
December	23 October	292.80	319.60	291.10	243.10	247.50	199.20	278.40	298.70	257.60
1982—										
March	19 February	306.20	333.50	307.40	246.10	250.20	207.70	287.40	307.40	269.20
June	21 May	312.60	342.30	317.10	253.90	258.90	215.00	294.50	316.70	278.10
September	20 August	322.10	348.70	321.30	264.00	269.00	222.10	304.30	324.20	283.50
December	19 November	336.20	361.60	329.30	277.70	282.30	221.20	318.50	337.70	287.10
1983—										
March	18 February	340.50	363.10	331.90	276.20	280.40	229.10	321.60	338.90	294.70
June	20 May	343.30	367.20	334.20	276.90	281.10	229.70	323.90	342.10	296.20
September	19 August	346.80	371.40	338.40	274.90	279.40	228.40	325.40	344.00	298.20
December	18 November	356.50	382.70	349.70	288.60	293.60	235.20	336.70	356.80	307.60
SOUTH AUSTRALIA										
1981—										
December	23 October	289.70	301.80	276.30	238.70	243.70	171.10	276.90	286.30	234.00
1982—										
March	19 February	304.50	318.90	294.00	248.90	253.40	179.80	289.80	301.80	249.60
June	21 May	311.50	323.00	294.90	262.90	267.00	191.10	298.60	308.30	254.80
September	20 August	324.10	336.20	306.60	268.10	270.80	194.20	308.70	318.30	262.80
December	19 November	336.50	347.80	316.30	280.00	282.50	202.60	321.40	329.70	273.50
1983—										
March	18 February	342.20	350.60	321.30	279.10	281.10	198.20	323.70	330.40	270.40
June	20 May	345.10	354.80	320.00	282.30	288.30	202.90	326.50	335.40	272.30
September	19 August	347.20	360.50	328.70	283.60	287.60	203.70	328.30	338.90	277.10
December	18 November	356.10	375.50	342.20	295.00	301.00	215.00	339.00	354.60	290.80



TABLE 2. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES, STATES AND TERRITORIES (REVISED)—continued

Quarter	Survey reference date	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
		Full-time adults		All males	Full-time adults		All females	Full-time adults		All employees
		Weekly ordinary time earnings	Weekly total earnings		Weekly ordinary time earnings	Weekly total earnings		Weekly ordinary time earnings	Weekly total earnings	
---dollars---										
WESTERN AUSTRALIA										
1981—										
December	23 October	294.30	321.20	293.60	246.10	253.00	176.00	280.10	301.10	243.30
1982—										
March	19 February	310.30	341.80	315.80	248.50	257.60	184.30	289.10	317.20	260.10
June	21 May	324.90	358.10	332.40	262.50	268.80	188.60	306.20	331.40	271.20
September	20 August	338.30	371.10	340.00	268.00	275.20	198.50	316.30	341.00	278.50
December	19 November	348.90	382.20	345.80	280.20	290.70	202.90	328.10	354.40	283.80
1983—										
March	18 February	351.40	384.70	353.90	284.00	293.70	209.30	331.10	357.10	292.70
June	20 May	354.40	379.60	347.40	286.40	295.10	208.70	334.10	354.10	288.00
September	19 August	361.10	389.80	353.70	292.70	300.20	212.20	340.00	362.10	292.30
December	18 November	373.20	404.80	368.90	300.50	307.00	213.90	351.80	375.90	302.70
TASMANIA										
1981—										
December	23 October	298.50	309.10	276.40	239.90	244.30	165.10	282.50	292.20	232.10
1982—										
March	19 February	306.50	322.20	296.20	243.50	253.00	179.10	290.00	304.70	251.90
June	21 May	324.10	340.20	312.60	264.10	271.10	186.70	309.10	323.60	264.00
September	20 August	334.50	345.50	314.70	276.20	282.00	187.20	320.10	330.50	265.40
December	19 November	339.70	353.10	321.70	284.80	289.10	188.90	326.30	337.80	267.60
1983—										
March	18 February	347.70	360.40	333.70	288.20	293.30	203.30	333.40	344.90	285.60
June	20 May	355.30	372.20	337.80	286.10	290.90	190.70	340.00	354.80	281.10
September	19 August	346.60	361.20	329.90	290.70	295.30	212.00	331.20	343.00	283.00
December	18 November	357.70	376.80	347.70	303.50	308.60	224.00	342.70	358.00	297.90
NORTHERN TERRITORY										
1981—										
December	23 October	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1982—										
March	19 February	348.60	371.80	343.00	287.40	292.00	233.70	326.00	342.10	295.90
June	21 May	363.30	394.40	369.90	298.50	309.10	260.40	338.70	361.80	322.20
September	20 August	377.30	409.80	378.80	319.20	325.90	274.30	354.40	376.70	332.70
December	19 November	380.20	403.60	377.10	330.60	336.40	282.10	361.50	378.40	336.30
1983—										
March	18 February	384.20	410.10	380.20	324.90	331.10	270.50	361.10	379.20	331.20
June	20 May	383.90	411.00	385.30	321.60	326.30	279.40	359.30	377.40	338.10
September	19 August	384.30	417.10	393.50	325.60	330.30	274.20	362.40	384.70	342.00
December	18 November	391.90	426.90	402.30	337.70	345.00	285.30	372.90	398.20	353.50
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY										
1981—										
December	23 October	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1982—										
March	19 February	369.70	385.20	354.50	282.30	290.60	242.40	338.20	351.40	309.30
June	21 May	401.60	417.60	383.00	299.70	310.00	260.50	362.80	376.90	331.60
September	20 August	402.90	417.70	380.90	299.30	308.70	259.50	362.80	375.80	329.00
December	19 November	426.20	440.20	397.00	317.30	327.30	265.00	385.20	397.80	340.30
1983—										
March	18 February	433.40	444.70	401.90	321.10	329.50	276.10	389.20	399.60	348.00
June	20 May	427.40	441.60	395.40	322.60	332.90	271.70	386.50	399.10	341.70
September	19 August	427.20	440.30	393.90	326.50	336.40	276.70	388.30	400.30	343.70
December	18 November	437.40	454.00	399.10	332.90	343.90	280.30	397.40	411.90	348.40



TABLE 3. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS AND INDEX NUMBERS OF EARNINGS:  
PAYROLL TAX AND EMPLOYER SURVEY SERIES (SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1981 = 100), AUSTRALIA

Quarter	Weekly total earnings			
	Per employed male unit		All male employees	
	Seasonally adjusted			
	Payroll tax series		Employer survey series	
	\$	Index	\$	Index
1975—				
March	151.10	50.2	..	..
June	154.60	51.3	..	..
September	159.40	52.9	..	..
December	167.20	55.5	..	..
1976—				
March	170.10	56.5	..	..
June	179.40	59.6	..	..
September	184.60	61.3	..	..
December	188.10	62.5	..	..
1977—				
March	191.50	63.6	..	..
June	199.10	66.1	..	..
September	202.40	67.2	..	..
December	206.90	68.7	..	..
1978—				
March	211.40	70.2	..	..
June	216.00	71.7	..	..
September	220.90	73.4	..	..
December	222.20	73.8	..	..
1979—				
March	230.40	76.5	..	..
June	230.90	76.7	..	..
September	239.10	79.4	..	..
December	244.30	81.1	..	..
1980—				
March	250.90	83.3	..	..
June	258.60	85.9	..	..
September	270.20	89.7	..	..
December	278.10	92.4	..	..
1981—				
March	283.90	94.3	..	..
June	294.30	97.7	..	..
September	301.10	100.0	283.90	100.0
December	..	..	296.60	104.5
1982—				
March	..	..	313.10	110.3
June	..	..	323.00	113.8
September	..	..	330.60	116.4
December	..	..	338.30	119.2
1983—				
March	..	..	341.80	120.4
June	..	..	344.10	121.2
September	..	..	350.50	123.5
December	..	..	362.80	127.8
1984—				
March p	..	..	369.90	130.3

A method of calculating an approximation of the Employer survey series for quarters earlier than September 1981.

For reasons outlined both in the Explanatory notes (paragraphs 1-3) and the more detailed exposition given in *Information Paper* (6336.0) the Payroll tax and Employer survey series are not strictly comparable.

The following example, using estimates for Australia, is supplied to assist those users who need to calculate an approximate equivalent to the Employer survey series for quarters earlier than September 1981. Information is available on request to enable links to be made at State level.

Method of calculating the Average Weekly Earnings All Male Employees: example for June 1981

1. Average Weekly Earnings (\$) All Male Employees September 1981 (Employer survey series)	283.90
2. Index numbers of Payroll tax series: June 1981	97.7
September 1981	100
3. June 1981 equivalent of Average Weekly Earnings for All Male Employees. (1 x 2)	277.40

Because of the quite different conceptual and methodological bases of the two series and the fact that the link is only available for the September quarter 1981, extreme care needs to be taken in interpreting the earnings figure so derived.